

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4520

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0315

DEPT PASS LABOR DEPARTMENT (ILAB DONALD AVERY)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB KU

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR MATERIAL ON U.S. LABOR AND MANPOWER
ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES.

REF: KUWAIT 4704

1. EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER DENNIS A. MICHAUD AND REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE JAMES MATTSON HAVE VISITED SEVERAL KUWAITI OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR, PLANNING BOARD, CENTRAL TRAINING ORGANIZATION, AND KUWAIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSALS OF KUWAIT IN MANPOWER FIELD. OFFICIALS EXPRESSED VARYING DEGREES OF INTEREST IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON U.S. EXPERIENCE IN SEVERAL FIELDS: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, SETTLEMENT OF LABOR DISPUTES, U.S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND ACTIVITIES, AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SPONSORED TRAINING SEMINARS IN MANPOWER PLANNING AND LABOR STATISTICS.

2. TWO SERIES OF EVENTS HAVE OVER THE PAST YEAR UNITED IN FORCING THE GOK TO GIVE MORE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION TO MANPOWER AND LABOR RELATIONS ISSUES. FIRST, THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE KUWAIT OIL COMPANY HAS BROUGHT THE GOK INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE OIL SECTOR'S MANPOWER PROBLEMS, INCLUDING SUCH SENSITIVE AREAS AS WAGE AND SAFETY DISPUTES. SECOND, KUWAIT'S GOVERNMENT INSPIRED AND FINANCED CONSTRUCTION
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PROGRAMS IN THE FIELDS

OF HOUSING, INDUSTRY, AND PUBLIC
WORKS HAVE INCREASED DEMAND ON THE LABOR MARKET JUST AT A
TIME WHEN, ACCORDING TO SOME OBSERVERS, DEMAND FROM LOWER
GULF STATES WITH ECONOMIC EXPANXON PROGRAMS OF THEIR OWN
IS HEIGHTENING COMPETITION FOR LABOR SUPPLY. GOK RESPONSE
HAS BEEN IN BOTH THE DOMESTIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL FIELDS:
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW EMPLOYMENT CENTERS, PROPOSALS FOR
LABOR ATTACHES TO KUWAIT'S EMBASSIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES,
ACTIVE INTEREST IN GULF STATES ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION AND
INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, EMPHASIS ON SETTING
UP VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS, TRIPARTITE COMMITTEES OF
GOVERNMENT, LABOR UNION, AND EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES TO
SETTLE WAGE AND
OTHER DISPUTES. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT
INTEREST IN U.S. EXPERIENCE EXPRESSED BY GOK OFFICIALS IN
ITS DISCUSSIONS REFLECTS THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND THUS
MRSENTS A TIMELY OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO INCREASE
ITS CONTACTS AND (OVER THE LONG TERM) INFLUENCE IN THIS
INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AREA OF KUWAIT'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.
AS A FIRST STEP, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT
MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON SEVERAL AREAS OF CONCERN TO
KUWAITIS IN THE LABOR/MANPOWER FIELD.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST ILAB POUCH PUBLICATIONS, LAWS,
AND OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS,
FOR PRESENTATION TO GOK OFFICIALS ON AN INFORMAL BASIS:
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH; U.S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE,
ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES; CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION
OF LABOR DISPUTES ON THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS, WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE EMPLOYER SIDE; SDDY0
VPZUOKILLPUTEPUMANPOWER REPORT OF THE PRESENT. EMBASSY
ALSO REQUESTS ILAB CABLE WWAP IEFPRVIGGHCOFHAUBJECTS,
DATES, AND COSTS OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SPONSORED SEMINARS
AND OTHER PROGRAMS IN FIELDS OF MANPOWER PLANNING AND
STATISTICS TRAINING. REFTEL EXPLAINS WHY TIMELY INFORMATION
(TRANSMITTED INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE BY CABLE INSTEAD OF BY
POUCH) NECESSARY TO ENABLE GOK TO ACT.
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